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THE SOPHOMORES

VICTORIOUS FINAL HOME WIN.

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THE VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 82, ISSUE NO. 1

FEB. 25, 2015

WWW.THEVALLEYSTAR.COM

LACCD backs Obama proposal

■ LACCD passes motion supporting free tuition.

BY MIKAYLA FOSS
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) unanimously passed a resolution Monday afternoon supporting President Barack Obama's proposal to make two years of community college tuition free.

LACCD Chancellor Dr. Francisco Rodriguez stated, "His visionary proposal for free college tuition is bold and ambitious, and our district will do all it can to gather support for it."

The Obama administration estimates "America's College Promise" would affect 9 million students and save a full-time student \$3,800 a year in tuition. To be eligible, students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher and attend school at least half-time while making steady progress towards a degree.

"The president's initiative will help defray costs so that our community college students can achieve their dreams of a better life and a brighter future," said LACCD Board President Scott Svonkin.

The resolution, sponsored by trustees Svonkin, Mike Eng and Mona Field, points out that "nearly a century ago, a movement to make high school free drove decades of economic growth and prosperity in the 20th century."

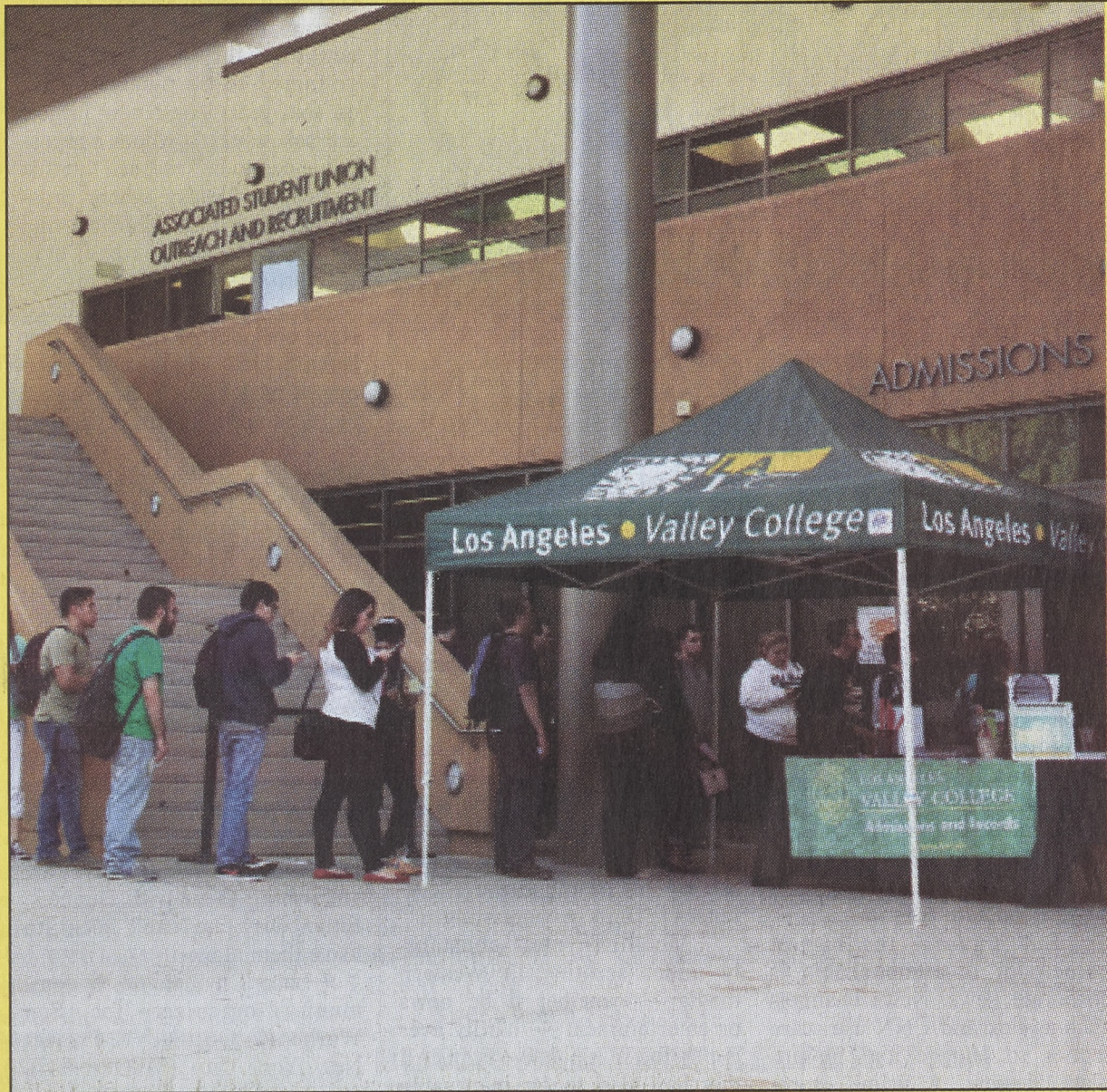
America's College Promise calls for the federal government to pick up 75 percent of the tab, with participating states paying 25 percent. The administration estimates the federal cost to be \$60 billion over 10 years.

"By the end of this decade, two in three job openings will require some higher education," Obama said in his Jan. 20 State of the Union address. "And yet, we still live in a country where too many bright, striving Americans are priced out of the education they need. It's not fair to them, and it's sure not smart for our future."

The proposal faces an uphill climb with the opposing party controlling Congress. The New York Times reported that legislative aides "have struggled to find Republicans willing to endorse the legislation." Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana criticized the proposal in a statement Friday.

"President Obama has increased our national debt by \$7.5 trillion dollars and created a new entitlement program at a time when our current entitlement programs are going bankrupt. So of course, now he is planning to offer two years of taxpayer-paid college," Jindal said. "Why stop there? Why not have the government buy a car and a house for everyone?"

LONG-LINE FRUSTRATION



AGUSTÍN ÁNGEL FLORES, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR
WALKING THE LINE - A winding line of Valley College students patiently line up, waiting in front of the Admissions and Records Office to add and inquire about classes for the Spring 2015 semester.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT UNION

First ICC meeting sets the agenda for spring

■ The Inter-Club Council wants points, air time ... and your blood.

BY SARA ALMALLA
STAFF WRITER

The Inter-Club Council (ICC) held an unofficial meeting Thursday in which they discussed upcoming events and club promotion.

They began by reviewing the upcoming ASU-hosted Board of Trustees Candidate Forum (student-elected Valley college government body) being held next Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Clubs were told they would receive club points if they chose to participate, which will be transferred into money at the end of the year.

"We're going to be handing out receipts so students can get extra credit," said Lisette Martinez, chief justice of the ASU. "Because there are professors, especially Political Science professors, who give points in participating in political events like these."

"For those interested in joining the executive council next year, applications are available in the ASU office and due

March 24," said Joan Hurwit, ASU co-advisor.

An upcoming blood drive hosted by the Red Cross was also announced.

"We take volunteers, so if anyone has to do community service hours, or just wants to get experience," said Chelsea Schater from the Valley College Student Health Center.

"Some of the things we'd have you do as a Red Cross volunteer would be registering other students and even faculty members and getting them to donate blood, as well as assisting the Red Cross coordinator."

The blood drive will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26.

The Broadcasting Club hosts a "Club Hour" on Thursdays at 3 p.m. at the KVCM radio station where other organizations can promote themselves and upcoming events. Appearing on the show also counts for club points.

"If you have not been on the air yet, I highly suggest it. It's really, really fun," said Hurwit.

Oscar Cordero,

Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs, said Club Day will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 25. The theme will be the Harlem Renaissance and they will be holding several workshops and lectures, such as the "We Can't Breathe" Workshop (presentation and group discussion) throughout the week in honor of Black Heritage Month.

Lastly, Hurwit discussed club-chartering paperwork and ICC training, in which she would be teaching the club representatives how to host events, raise money, and double their funds.

The Associated Student Union also met this Tuesday to discuss finances—for two minutes, in which all items were postponed.

They later returned to hold interviews for a new Commissioner of Fine Arts. The commissioner's job would include hosting and planning an international fine arts festival with the art department.

The next Inter-Club Council meeting will be held on Feb. 26.

No suspects in campus robbery

■ No leads yet in Feb. 12 mugging of male student.

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Two unidentified assailants robbed a student walking towards Parking Lot A, past the Engineering Building on Feb. 12, at around 9:25 p.m.

"He felt someone push him from behind," said Deputy Sheriff Dennis Marmolejo. "Simultaneously, his hand was being pulled."

The two suspects ran in opposite directions after stealing a briefcase from the victim's hands. The victim was unable to describe them beyond their dark clothing.

"He couldn't tell if they were male or female, he didn't know their race, or anything," said Marmolejo.

Among the items in the briefcase were the student's

Apple laptop and a textbook.

Marmolejo mentioned that the suspects' vague descriptions were sent out over the radio at the time but there were no reports of anyone running with a briefcase. As a result of the robbery, campus security has heightened and more areas will be patrolled, according to the deputy sheriff.

Campus security is advising people to be aware of their surroundings when walking around the campus at night, and to walk in groups if possible.

If you have any information about the incident, similar incidents, or the identity of those responsible, please contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at (323) 559-5905.

The telephone number for the Sheriff's Office on campus is (818) 947-2911.

From the Valley to Asheville, NC

■ Athena, Valley's goddess of the goal, ascends to Division I this year on the east coast.



JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

MOVING ON - Record-setting Athena Del Rosario is on the verge of going to UNC Asheville, in all her wisdom.

BY JORGE BELON
MANAGING EDITOR

With UNC Asheville Bulldogs Head Coach Michelle Demko and Athena Del Rosario verbally agreeing to her playing in North Carolina, the 32-year-old is now packing her bags and heading to the South.

However, until the Admission Department clears her she is not an official member of the Bulldogs, according to Asheville's Head Coach Michelle Demko.

Del Rosario is on the verge of heading to North Carolina after rewriting multiple goal-keeping records at Valley College. In two seasons she managed to record 15 shutouts, along with stopping a total of 267 shots while guiding the Monarchs to the best record in their program's history in 2014, finishing 12-7-2.

Her first season ended with a rough 4-10-7 record and she

please see *Del Rosario* page 6

News Briefs

NO TO PIPELINE - According to CNN.com, President Obama exercised his veto power for the first time in five years Tuesday, striking down a measure to build the Keystone XL pipeline. Republican advocates say the pipeline would have created more American jobs.

CHARGED NOT FILED - The U.S. Justice Department announced Tuesday that it will not file charges against George Zimmerman in the 2012 fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin, according to the L.A. Times. A lack of eyewitnesses made the decision long anticipated.

NOT RUNNING - Former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said Tuesday that he will not be running for U.S. Senate. He was expected to run after being in contact with several Democratic luminaries the past couple of weeks, per L.A. Times.

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www.thevalleystar.com
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OPINION

Muslim lives matter! ...or do they?

■ The murder of three Muslim Americans reveals an ugly side of the land of the free and it's bigotry.

BY SARA ALMALLA
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 10, three Muslim university students were murdered in their college dorm room by their neighbor, Craig Hicks. They weren't terrorists or criminals; they were guilty only of the crime of being Muslim in America.

Deah Barakat, a 23-year-old in his second year of studying dentistry, was still at the prime of his life. He had just gotten married to Yusor Abu-Salha, a 21-year-old about to begin her first year at the University of North Carolina. Yusur's sister, Razan, was 19 and a sophomore at North Carolina State University.

Major news outlets were quick to jump to the conclusion that the murder was over a parking dispute and Hicks was dismissed by the public as being mentally unstable.

Many in the media even spoke highly of him and went out of their way to find others who would do the same in attempts to humanize him and justify his actions. CNN went so far as to discuss how he was "known for rescuing dogs from puppy mills."

Following the horrific executions of the three students came an outpouring of both hatred and support. While thousands stood in solidarity with the Muslim community, Muslim women who wear the traditional headress, a hijab, were harassed on the streets, a mosque was set ablaze and a firefighter posted "Let it burn ... block the fire hydrant," on his Facebook page. Many others responded to this terrible situation by directing ridicule at the Muslim community online and offline.

Most hatred comes from a place of ignorance. Unfortunately, the most exposure

to Islam an average American receives comes from the media - and therein lies the problem.

Western media (corporate and social) is notoriously opinionated and often biased. Edward Said states in his book, "Covering Islam" that "the American news media have portrayed 'Islam' as a monolithic entity, synonymous with terrorism and religious hysteria."

Muslims in entertainment are almost always portrayed as backwards, narrow, and savage. One example of many, many instances can be seen in the comedy TV show "Community." the Muslim character Abed, is not very religious, however, when his cousin visits from Palestine, she is decked in a niqab (cloth covering the face except the eyes) and abaya (long black dress).

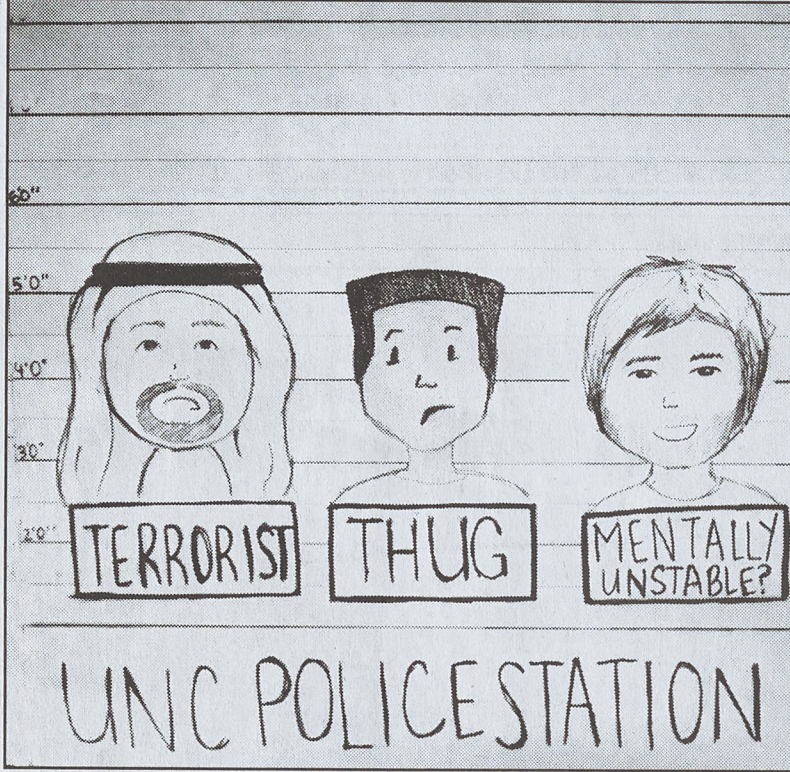
Not only do they wrongly label her outfit a "full burqa," but any Arab Muslim knows that this is not an accurate representation of the way an average Palestinian Muslim would dress. Furthermore, Abed's father forbids her from playing with the other kids - once again reinforcing the "oppressed Muslim women" stereotype.

Aside from stereotypes, the production of movies such as "American Sniper" furthers contempt for Muslims.

Director Clint Eastwood said, "The biggest antiwar statement any film [can make is to show] the fact of what [war] does to the family and the people who have to go back into civilian life like Chris Kyle did."

Of course, Eastwood's film focuses on the anguish felt by the American soldier, conveniently leaving out the 250 Iraqis*number source? he killed and the millions whose homes were invaded and destroyed in the conflict.

Furthermore, it is difficult to claim antiwar sentiment in a



SARA ALMALLA, STAFF WRITER / VALLEY STAR
AMERICA'S LENS - UNC fatal shooting highlights "Islamophobia."

movie based on Kyle, who has labeled the Iraqis "savages" and stated numerous times that he loved killing them.

Kyle is depicted as a Godsend - everything he does is heroic; everything that happens to him is tragic. Meanwhile, every single Muslim character illustrated in the movie has malicious intent. It is difficult to believe that of the 33 million people in Iraq, Kyle never met a single moderate Muslim.

But arguably the biggest perpetrator of Islamophobia is corporate news. News channels such as Fox and CNN use scare tactics to engage and manipulate viewers. A prime example is the seven-minute rant by Judge Jeanine Pirro in which she repeatedly exclaims, "We need to kill them! We need to kill these radical Muslim terrorists. You're in danger, I'm in danger."

Pirro's screed is an emotional tantrum at best—her claims are ill-founded and

unsupported. She, along with many other prominent figures in the media, make wild accusations towards moderate Muslims for not reproving and stopping militant groups such as ISIS — conveniently overlooking every Muslim scholar that has openly condemned these terrorist groups, such as the renowned author, Reza Aslan. The lack of backlash against these glaringly biased and Islamophobic occurrences is frankly concerning.

Muslims are constantly under scrutiny in Western media — whether it be news or entertainment — hardly ever appearing in a positive light. All this has led to an arguably dangerous time for Muslims in America. *support with numbers of hate crimes, etc.*

America prides itself on its freedom — freedom of speech, press, and religion — so when will we accept the Muslim community as we are supposed to accept all others?

America and its holy war on sex

■ America on a mission to "rescue" sex workers.

BY JULIEN J. METZMEYER
OPINION EDITOR

TV producers found another way to make money off the back of innocent people with a new TV reality show that is programmed to be launched later on this year. Their new targets are sex workers whom supposedly need to be "rescued" in that America's fantasy where prostitution can be eradicate and where sex is seen as bad, evil, and dirty.

A&E Network ordered eight episodes of the show that is called "8 Minutes." Ex-cop turned pastor Kevin Brown will be representing himself as a client and meet with a prostitute where he would have 8 minutes to convince her to quit her job. If the woman decides to walk out of prostitution she's brought to a safe house and later removed from the state.

Brown spent 20 years as a police officer on patrol in Santa Ana where he sent many innocent women to jail for prostitution. Now that he found Jesus he wants to "rescue" them. He used to interfere in sex worker's lives by arresting them now he just interferes in their lives by ambushing them with cameras. Either way, he can't seem to leave them alone.

Lane Champagne, a community organizer for Sex Workers Outreach Project New York City (SWOP-NYC), attacked the Executive Producer Tom Forman during an interview for thedailybeast.com, "The fact that [Forman] is using someone who has a religious platform and a prior experience in law enforcement is indicative of the fact that they are more interested in the moralistic elements of this rather than the "rescued" human

being that they are alleging to help."

Who said anyway that sex workers need to be "rescued"? Nobody asked Kevin Brown and his Christian volunteers, called Safe Passage OC for help.

Kaelie Laochra, a sex worker who runs the popular Respect Sex Work Twitter Account, wrote in an email interview for the dailybeast.com, "Some of the creepiest and most disgusting people I've ever spoken with were people trying to save me. I feel good about myself with most of my clients. It's only when people come in trying to guilt or shame me that I feel disgusting."

This is the hypocrisy of America at its best. A country where you can legally go into an establishment and pay a stripper to dance. A country where you can legally pay for pornographic movies. Buying a diamond for a girl who will probably end up having sex with you to thank you - but giving money directly to a girl for sexual favors is illegal and immoral, according to America.

Prostitution is the oldest profession in the whole world and has yet to go away. It is a victimless crime only made dangerous as a result of its unregulated status and the fact that prostitutes can't turn to authorities for help when exposed to violence or other criminal acts.

Ariel Wolf, a community organizer with the Red Umbrella Project (RedUP), told thedailybeast.com, "Sex workers generally tend to fear the cops more than they do their own clients, because most of us know someone who has been raped or assaulted by a police officer."

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: VACCINATION: GOOD OR BAD?

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at www.thevalleystar.com

The unvaccinated are a real threat

BY YESENIA BURGARA
STAFF WRITER

Vaccinations have proven over the years to be safe and effective, and everyone should be vaccinated to help protect and save each others lives. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the percentage decrease for vaccine-preventable diseases compared to pre-vaccine era ranges between 72 percent to 100 percent, Smallpox and Diptheria at 100 percent.

With medical science being so advanced, we are now being protected from more diseases every day. Though, in 2006, 6,787 kindergartners opted out of vaccinations and last year that number grew to 13,257, according to the California Department of Public Health.

In 2010, more than 21,000 cases of whooping cough were reported in the United States with 26 ending in death of children mostly under the age of six months, according to vaccines.gov.

Parents against vaccinations are not taking into consideration that they might be putting others health at risk when they do not vaccinate their children; it exposes children and adults that can not be vaccinated and not by choice.

Some vaccinations can only be taken after a certain age such as the measles vaccination that can only be taken after 12 months of age, which is a highly contagious disease and can live in air for up to two hours.

Also, some adults and chil-

dren cannot take certain vaccinations because they may have severe allergies or have a weak immune system due to illnesses such as cancer.

In the United States the measles was almost as high as 800,000 cases in the 1950's. In 1962 the Measles vaccine was licensed and by 1970 the number decreased to 100,000, and by 1993 even fewer cases were reported according to CDC.

And, from 2001 until 2013 each year the measles cases reported were under 300 cases. But last year, 644 cases were reported, and as of January 30, 102 cases were already reported for this year, most cases are related to the Disneyland outbreak in California where most of those infected didn't get vaccinated or couldn't say if they were or not.

Dr. Anne Schuchat,

an assistant surgeon general and director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory

Diseases explains in a press briefing, "This is not a problem with the measles vaccine not working, this is a problem of the measles vaccine not being used."

One in 12 children are not taking their Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine on time making them more vulnerable to get measles.

Last year 18,200 kindergartners in California were exempt from being vaccinated, mostly because of personal reasons according to the CDC. Everyone is entitled to make their own decisions when it comes to health, but when it affects others that is when it becomes an issue.

Vaccine-gambling is a lose-lose

BY JAY T. GILLILAND
PHOTO EDITOR

Parents are forced to risk the health of their child to deadly diseases or risk the rare side effect of a vaccine that could do just as much harm, including death. Fortunately according to the Department of Justice (DOJ) there is already a system in place to compensate vaccine victims. The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 led to the establishment of the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) in 1988. According to justice.gov, "More than 2,319 people have been paid in excess of \$1.8 billion (combined) since the Program's 1988 inception." Pharmaceutical companies are preoccupied with profits in direct conflict with public

safety and that makes vaccines dangerous.

There is no law mandating vaccination but the fact of the matter is vaccines are profitable. According to the Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy, "The global vaccines industry was valued at \$24 billion in 2009 and is expected to reach \$52 billion in 2016 at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 11.5%. The vaccines market, which was once considered a low-profit segment of the top players' portfolios, showed a turnaround after the resounding success of Prevnar, the first blockbuster vaccine." The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) shows Prevnar has directly caused 642 deaths to date since the vaccine was approved in 2000.

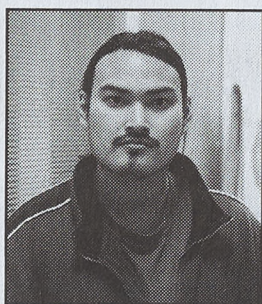
The DOJ announced Aug. 8,

2014, "McKesson Corporation has agreed to pay \$18 million to resolve allegations that it improperly set temperature monitors used in shipping vaccines under its contract with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)." In 2006 the FBI reported a case in which a couple distributed 1,100 fake vaccines to unsuspecting employees of a Texas based oil company. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident.

Well at least the "shot" is voluntary... The federal government has left it to the state to develop a Vaccine Schedule and policies to protect the public. In some states, such as Ohio, child protective services removed two children from the home of Charity J. Schenker on the grounds of child neglect for choosing not to immunize her children due to her religious beliefs. Schenker appealed the decision and lost, losing her kids indefinitely. Though this case was decided in 1986, it sets precedence for future cases in which the state can take away someone's children for opting-out of the vaccination program. If you're lucky enough to not be prosecuted for not immunizing your children they have other ways of encouraging you to participate. Vaccination is a requirement to attend public school, join the military, work certain jobs, or travel outside of the country. For many of us that leaves little "choice". Until vaccines can be proven to be safe these policies should be remanded.

Campus View

PHOTOS BY SCOTT HOWARD



"It's a good thing. I remember seeing somewhere that a California kid didn't get vaccinated, now he's in quarantine."

-Gabriel Mirez Jr., theater major



"I think you need to get the basic ones. But the flu shot, I don't think you really need it."

- Lourdes Agurto, undecided



"I don't agree. It should be a personal choice."

- Jennifer Miguel, undecided



"So few percentage of kids get a vaccine. I think it's really not a big deal."

-Lidia Termnyan, History Major

Should vaccine be mandatory or not?

VALLEY LIFE

3

ART GALLERY

Twitchell's art will draw you in

■ Kent Twitchell will leave a permanent impression.

BY YESENIA BURGARA
STAFF WRITER

"Life Line: Drawings by Kent Twitchell" is an inspirational and creative collection currently standing in Valley College's art gallery. It's a privilege that only Valley has the honor of saying, as many pieces have not been displayed elsewhere.

Students describe the collection as realistic, emotional, and detailed. Lizette Hernandez, an art major at LAVC saw Twitchell's self portrait on Valley's website and visited the art gallery to view the rest of his work.

"I was drawn to it because it had a real sense of life. Although it was a pencil drawing, every little stroke was carefully thought out. The drawings of each person showed life in their eyes, it made you wonder about their different stories," said Hernandez.

Twitchell is a famous realism artist and muralist since the late 60s. His murals can be found throughout the world but most of his work is in Los Angeles.

"Life Line" displays mostly graphite on paper with drawings of well known faces



AGUSTIN ANGEL FLORES / VALLEY STAR
TWITCHELL - Valley College student exploring "Life Line: Drawings by Kent Twitchell" at the Art Gallery.

such as Nelson Mandela, Michael Jackson, Sammy Davis Jr. and more.

After visiting Twitchell's studio and going through his archive, Sam Lee, Valley College's art gallery director, chose small and original drawings he felt were best for the show.

"Some have not been exhibited anywhere before. They are all stand outs to me. Each with its own intricacies and nuances. I am very proud of the show because it really highlights Kent Twitchell's amazing talent as an artist," said Lee.

The exhibition is an extension of the mural that will cover the wall of Valley's new

Student Services Center. The mural will be a replica of the "Freeway Lady," which was originally painted near the Hollywood freeway, however was lost in 1986, after it was painted over. This year would have marked its 40th anniversary.

After years of wanting to recreate this piece, the mural was chosen by Valley's Art Committee to be the first project on campus and is now in the works.

"Life Line" has been at Valley since Nov. 6 and will be displayed until Feb. 26 at the art gallery, located in the art building. Try to visit before it's gone.

"Site Unseen: Incarcera-

tion," will be the following exhibition at the art gallery and will be guest-curated by Sheila Pinkel. It will be on display from March 12 through April 23. "Site Unseen" will showcase the artwork of incarcerated artist, who are either in prison or are now out, and trying to turn their lives around.

Their work will give their perspective on life in prison, as well as give them the opportunity to express themselves. The opening reception is on Thursday, March 12 from 6 to 7 p.m. followed by a panel discussion from 7 to 8 p.m.

General Gallery Hours: Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

PERFORMING ARTS

Nothing but the classics this spring semester

■ "The Crucible" and "Romeo and Juliet" productions coming up this semester at Valley College.

BY YESENIA BURGARA
STAFF WRITER

The Theater Department is now preparing for this spring semester's performances—Arthur Miller's American classic, "The Crucible" and William Shakespeare's timeless "Romeo and Juliet."

Miller's Tony winner, a cornerstone work of American theatre, will run from March 19 through March 22.

"This is a play chosen by the students, which is interesting because it's not a contemporary piece," said Jennifer Read, Department Chair for theater.

"The Crucible" is ostensibly about the Salem Witch Trials of the 1690s, but was really a direct criticism of the Communist witch hunts of Miller's time and the black lists that had directly affected Miller's colleagues and chilled free speech. Miller himself was later convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to "name names," exactly the predicament in which his char-

acters found themselves.

"It has long been one of my favorite plays since I first read it in high school," said student-director Matt McLaughlin. "The story paints a frightening picture of the dangers of group-think and how innocent people can be crushed by that inertia. Underneath that, it's a story about one man trying to accurately evaluate himself and his actions before he runs out of time."

The show is completely student-directed and designed, with a total of 40 students in the crew and a cast of 20.

"Thus far it is the largest number of students I've collaborated with on a production, and communication among everyone can sometimes be challenging, but the process is coming together well," McLaughlin said.

On May 7 through May 10, the theater arts department will bring to life William Shakespeare's famous "Romeo and

see Arts page 4

MOVIE REVIEW

Student safety not guaranteed

■ Oscar-nominated documentarian Kirby Dick sheds light on campus sexual assaults in his film.

BY AMANDA CAVARRETTA
COPY EDITOR

Annie Clark and Andrea Pino were bright-eyed freshmen excited to attend their first year at University of North Carolina. However, before the semester even started, they were both raped. When Clark spoke to an administrator about her rape, she received an unbelievable response, "Rape is like a football game. If you look back on the game, what would have you done differently?"

This is just one of the many stories shared in a new upcoming documentary, "The Hunting Ground."

The girls joined forces to create an organization called End Rape on Campus (EROC). Clark and Pino travel the country to help others file a Title IX (a law that discriminates against sexual harassment, assault, and rape) complaint against the schools.

Oscar-nominated documentarian Kirby Dick uses his latest film to point the spotlight on sex crimes occurring on college campuses nationwide and how the institutions try to cover them up.

"The Hunting Ground" is a Sundance documentary that exposes colleges and why they silence those who are sexually assaulted. Elite schools such as Harvard, Yale, UC Berkeley and Notre Dame are under the microscope for how they handle sexual assault investigations. Finally, these women and men have a chance to speak up. From victim to survivor, they are becoming activists with hopes

of making a change.

According to the film, one in five women will be sexually assaulted before they graduate from college. With a number so high, why is there little awareness? With colleges protecting themselves like a brand, any bad press can potentially hurt them and deter students from applying to their college.

One of the most alarming stories was about a girl who claimed she was drugged, kidnapped, and sexually assaulted by Florida State University quarterback, Jameis Winston. Without any conviction, Winston went on to win the Heisman Trophy. Soon after, another woman came forward and claimed that she too was sexually assaulted by Winston. The school continued to look the other way and Winston currently prepares for the upcoming 2015 NFL draft.

The audience reacted constantly with disgusted gasps and vigorous head shaking. The stories shared will move some to tears. With heavy material, "The Hunting Ground" will take you out of your seat and put you into the survivor's shoes. It's a tough documentary to wrap your head around and might make your stomach turn a bit. "The Hunting Ground" should be shown at every school nationwide.

**** (out of 5)

"The Hunting Ground" (unrated; disturbing adult language and situations) opens in theaters Feb. 27, 2015 nationwide and will be airing on CNN later this spring.

BLACK HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Learn something new at BHC

■ Valley honors Black History Month with workshops, entertainment, exhibitions and other activities.

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

In recognition of Black History Month, Valley College is hosting a string of events spanning four days this week.

"It is meant to educate, celebrate, and honor Black History," said Keidra Morris, Associate Professor of African-American Studies and a leader in planning the events of "Black Heritage Celebration."

The first event, the forum, "It Takes a Whole Village to Help a Student," was held on Monday from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. in the Student Services Multi-Purpose Room. Intended to inform students about available services, the forum's speakers included faculty from the Career-Transfer Center, Admissions and Records, and Financial Aid. Associate Dean Sherri Rodriguez and counselor Reggie Reed also spoke.

Faculty emphasized that students, particularly African-American students, should take full advantage of the resources at the college.

"You need to decide how much you want to fuel that personal desire to excel," said Clive Gordon, director of the Career/Transfer Center. "I can only wish that the number of African-American students and all students, in terms of transferring, increase, but I cannot do it for you."

Students asked counselors about dilemmas concerning financial aid or class registration.

"To know the benefits of joining EOPS [Extended Opportunity Programs and Services] and different things that are available on campus ... was very useful," said communication studies major Andrew Anglin. "I'm definitely going to take more advantage of the Career/Transfer Center because so far I've been doing things on

my own, when I could be getting more assistance and guidance."

Gordon announced that the newly organized African-American Equity program (one of several ethnically oriented equity programs) will fund specialized services for African-American students. Services will include tutoring, a counselor, and a cohort of classes.

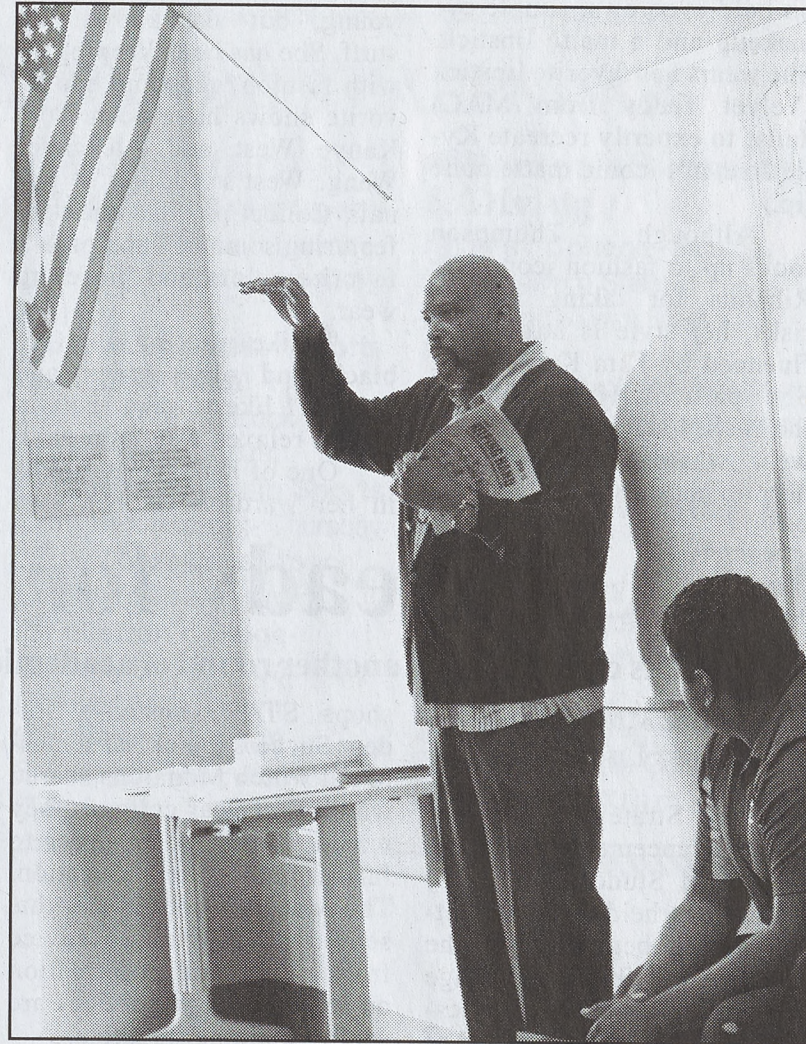
African-American Equity is currently accepting applications to take five-to-eight students on a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Tour. The trip costs \$1,600; however, for qualifying participants, financial aid can reduce the student's burden to only a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Students interested in applying can see Gordon or Dr. Morris at the Counseling Office.

On Tuesday, faculty and staff held a discussion about police brutality, micro-aggression, and community action. Speakers included two representatives from UCLA, Public Relations representative from Cal State Fullerton, one of Valley College's sheriffs, and Associate Professor Administration of Justice.

Today there will be food and entertainment at the Student Services Plaza, near the club stands. The jazz band, "The Urban Groove" will perform from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

"Black Heritage Celebration" will wrap up Thursday with an exhibition of student Sankofa artwork, as well as a screening of the documentary, "Dark Girls."

Sankofa translates as "reach back and get it" in the Akan language of Ghana; it also refers to the Asante tribe symbol of a bird looking backward and taking an egg off its back. It expresses the importance in taking the good from the past and applying it to the present,



AGUSTIN ANGEL FLORES / VALLEY STAR
IT TAKES A VILLAGE - Financial Aid Manager, Vernon D. Bridges, talks about financial aid resources, like FAFSA, in the workshop.

thus allowing progress.

"[The artwork] reflects how African-American history has affected students in a positive way," Morris said.

The artwork will be displayed from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Student Services Multi-Purpose Room (SSC) 245. The screening will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be followed by a group discussion.

"Dark Girls," directed by Bill Duke and D. Channsin Berry, takes a closer look at the deep-rooted prejudices involving women both outside and within Black American culture.

"It talks about how ideas of 'colorism' impact women

negatively, not just black communities, but people of color," said Morris.

Although the film focuses on dark-skinned women, Morris encourages all students to watch and participate in this thought-provoking conversation. "It's important for men to watch as well, because they often perpetuate cultural values," Morris said.

"Black Heritage Celebration" is sponsored by the LAVC Black American Initiative, Student Equity, and the Associated Student Union.

For more information contact Dr. Keidra Morris at morrisk@lavc.edu.

CAMPUS STYLE

Trendy aspiring “#Girlboss”

■ Business major Kiara Thompson can describe her own style as “classy yet bold.”

BY MONESSA CHAHAYED
ONLINE EDITOR

Inspired by fashion’s power couple “Kimye,” poised social butterfly Kiara Thompson means business when it comes to her wardrobe.

The confident business major plans to work behind the scenes in the entertainment business. “#Girlboss,” by Nasty Gal founder Sophia Amoruso, has given Thompson some insight as to what it is like for woman entrepreneurs in the fashion world. She feels Amoruso has challenged her and given her the confidence to dive headfirst into situations.

“The book is mainly about business, but there’s some fashion in there as well,” the trendy 19-year-old said.

When she is not going out with friends, Thompson spends some of her free time shopping online. Her favorite stores include Topshop and Zara. However, if she had to step out of the house, her go-to place would be American Vintage in Studio City. Thompson can find rather unique and mostly inexpensive pieces.

“I like Zara, a lot of Zara! But I will match something expensive with a \$5 piece from H&M. I like to mix brands ... expensive and cheap,” she said.

Although she prefers the convenience of buying clothes online, Thompson will go to Sephora to buy some of her favorite makeup brands like Laura Mercier or Nars. Her go-to makeup look focuses on bold eyebrows, simple eye makeup and a matte lipstick. She wears her favorite lipstick (Velvet Teddy from MAC) daily, to expertly recreate Kylie Jenner’s iconic matte nude lip.

Although Thompson looks up to fashion icons like Rihanna for taking fashion risks, her style is largely influenced by Kim Kardashian. She particularly appreciates the reality star’s assurance to wear whatever she pleases, despite her curves.



ZAIDA DIAZ / VALLEY STAR

SPOTTED! - Business major, Kiara Thompson, rocking an olive green bomber jacket, grey midi dress, and black Sam Edelman sandals.

“She might wear high-end designers and even though these clothes [are] made for skinny women, she wears them with confidence. And I believe no matter what size you are, you can wear what you want,” Thompson said. “As long as you feel happy in it! Just be confident!”

The fashionista may be young, but she knows her stuff. She has been keeping up with fashion week and her favorite shows have been from Kanye West and Alexander Wang. West’s Addidas Originals Collection just debuted, featuring some of Thompson’s favorite colors and pieces to wear.

“I like wearing a lot of black and olive green and beiges. I like to take risks in a more relaxed way,” she said.

One of her favorite items in her wardrobe is her Sam

Edelman black and white circus boots with gold studs on the heel.

Today, she is wearing a light grey midi T-shirt dress from a boutique, paired with an olive green bomber jacket from Topshop, and black Sam Edelman sandals with a gold heel. Although her personal style is more laid back, Thompson understands the value in taking risks.

“I think it’s important to step out of the box with fashion, always! That’s just how fashion keeps evolving,” Thompson said.

ABOUT Kiara Thompson:**Music:** Drake, Jhene Aiko**Brands:** Zara, Topshop, MAC**Designers:** Sam Edelman, Alexander Wang**Inspirations:** Kim Kardashian, Rihanna

STARS ready for semester

■ Monarchs can anticipate another round of academic workshops from STARS.

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The Strategic Team for the Advancement and Retention of Students (STARS) Committee held its first meeting at the beginning of the month in the library to arrange student events for this semester. STARS is comprised of faculty and students who aim to enhance student academic performance.

Last semester, STARS held a series of workshops including: “Success Strategies for Math,” “Navigating Through College,” and “Study Smarter, Not Harder.” STARS provided practical learning strategies and tools for students through these sessions.

Due to the positive evaluations received from each session, STARS decided that they would continue to host the workshops this semester.

They found “Study Harder, Not Smarter” particularly helpful and will encourage Valley faculty to “use them as brief lessons embedded in their courses.”

In addition to the work-


shops, STARS hosted a Student Success Panel last semester, at which Monarchs shared which four-year colleges they would transfer to in order to further pursue their education. The panel will return later this semester, providing advice from peers and information on which college services are useful in aiding transfers.

The panel “had students talking about what they did to transfer and get ready to start the next phase of their journey,” said Deborah Kaye, Professional Development Director and STARS Committee Chair. “You always hear different perspectives and ideas; a lot of them talked about their major, how they decided their major, and where they were planning to go.”

STARS will end the spring with a luncheon between students and faculty that will serve as an instrument for networking.

In the meantime, Monarchs can expect the first of the STARS spring workshops to begin early March. “Study Skills Strategies,” will take place on March 3 from 1 p.m.

to 2:30 p.m. in the Library and Academic Resource Center (LARC) 200. On March 4, they will hold “Overcoming Math Anxiety” at LARC 227, from 1 p.m. to 2:30.

 **Additional content online - Go to**
www.thevalleystar.com

‘Arts’

continued from page 3

Juliet.” The production will be directed by faculty member Christopher Coddington and will have a cast of 35.

Each performance has an approximate run time of two hours with a 15-minute intermission. Thursday and Friday shows will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday shows will have a matinee showing at 2 p.m. and an evening show at 7:30 p.m.

Purchase your early bird tickets for “The Crucible” at Brown Paper Tickets for \$10 before March 5, and before April 24 for “Romeo and Juliet.” Tickets will cost \$12 after those dates, and \$15 at the door.

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SPORTS

5

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Monarchs sink the Corsairs on Sophomore Night

■ Valley College cruises past Santa Monica College 74-63 on Wednesday night, clinching a fourth straight victory in the final home game of the season.



JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/VALLEY STAR

BUCKETS- Monarch freshman guard/forward Adaori Obi glides through the air with a running jump-shot for two of her season high 28 points in the victory against Santa Monica College on Wednesday.

By KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On a night when sophomores were honored on the throne in their last home game as Lady Monarchs, it was the freshmen who reigned supreme.

Freshman forward Adaori Obi scored a season-high 28 points along with acting as part-time glass-cleaner, snatching 19 rebounds. Freshman point guard Sydney Hua was a rebound away from a huge triple-double in Wednesday night's 74-63 win vs. the Santa Monica College (SMC) Corsairs.

The win marked Valley's fourth straight victory, pushing

their record back to the .500 mark at 14-14 (7-6 conference.) as they pushed to try and end the season on a high note.

"Finish strong," said Head Coach Monica Hang. "One more game left and we want to finish with a winning season, so we still have to compete hard."

Competing hard is just what the Lady Monarchs did early against Corsairs, as they catapulted to a quick 12-2 double-digit lead just four minutes into the game, led by Obi's six points and three boards.

Valley's quick start was a result of aggressive play on both ends of the floor; offensively, the ladies in green attacked

the basket relentlessly for easy layups and drawn fouls, while packing the paint on defense to force long, contested shots.

However, midway into the first half, the Lady Monarchs offense hit a brick wall as the Corsairs began executing a full-court press, disrupting Valley's flow en route to an 11-3 run to take a 20-19 lead seven minutes before halftime.

SMC's press, along with some half-court traps, forced Valley into a copious amount of mistakes, forcing an eye-popping 21 turnovers -- to Santa Monica's three -- on which the Corsairs capitalized with 22 points.

"We just needed to stay calm running our press break," said Hua. "When we started panicking is when we started turning over the ball over and missing opportunities."

Fortunately for the Lady Monarchs, hot shooting beyond the arc in the final six minutes of the first half from Hua and sophomores Hannah Ascencio, and Melody Gauthier -- who all combined to shoot 7-11 (63%) from the three-point line in the game -- helped Valley take a comfortable 38-29 lead into the break.

To start the second half, Valley was able to carry over its late first-half offensive success, quickly pushed the lead to double digits just two minutes in. Though their jump shots weren't falling as well as in the first half, the Lady Monarchs were able to draw fouls and get to the free-throw line 18 times in the second half -- converting 14 attempts.

The Corsairs' explosive backcourt of Briah Nelson and Aniese Palmore did its best to keep the game within reach, scoring 20 out of their combined 32 points in the second half and bringing the deficit down to just two with 13 minutes remaining.

However, the Lady Monarchs quickly countered by reeling off a 24-14 game-clinching run, led by a backcourt star of their own in Hua, who finished with 12 points, 13 assists, and 9 rebounds.

"We had to get the win tonight," said Hua. "I want [the sophomores] to remember that we finished this season strong."

Obi, the conference's sec-

ond-leading rebounder, said the game was "emotional" and "meant a lot because the sophomores deserved it" because of all of their hard work.

"We came out, did what coach wanted and won, so it felt really good," said forward Gauthier, who stuffed the stat sheet with 14 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, and 3 blocks in her final game at Valley.

"I'm going to miss the people and the environment the most. We're really family oriented, we love each other, and it's just so much fun being with each other."

The Lady Monarchs would go on to lose in their final game against the Glendale Community College Vaqueros 64-68 at Verdugo Gym, finishing the season 14-15.



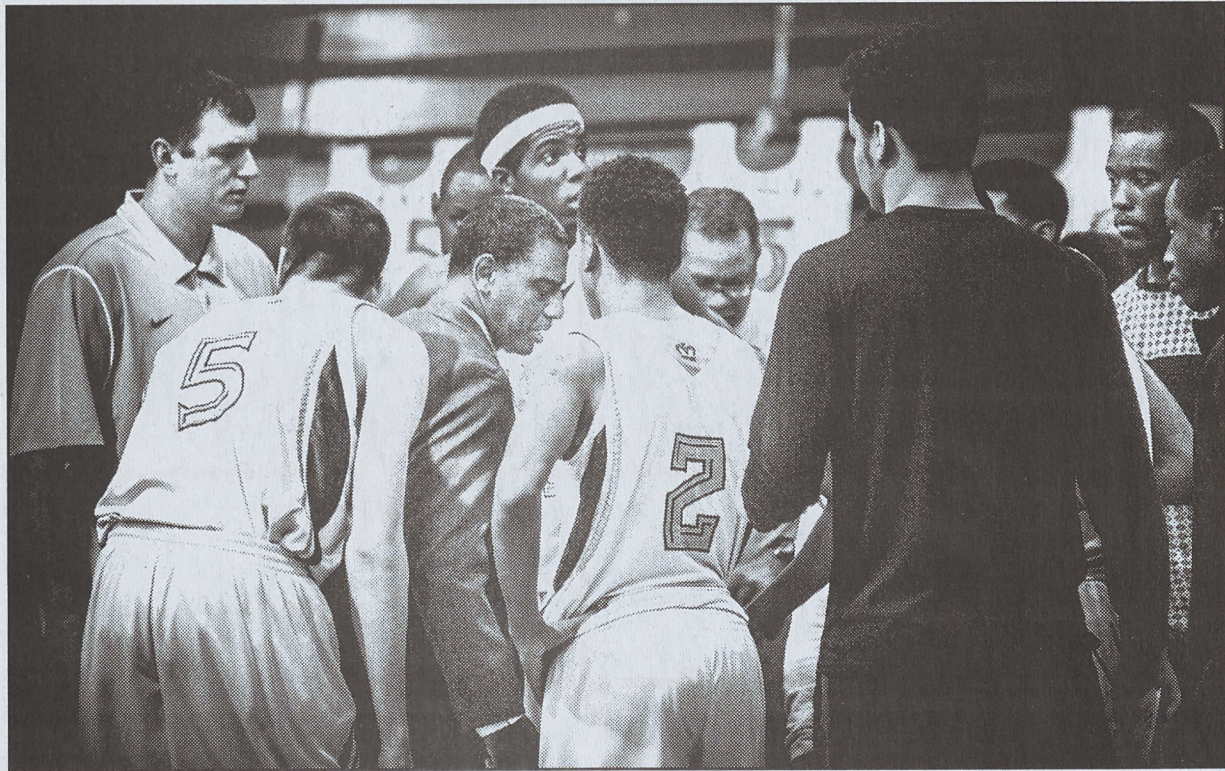
JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/VALLEY STAR

HITTING THE BOARDS- Monarch freshman guard/forward Adaori Obi fights to grab one of her 19 rebound against the Santa Monica College Corsairs in the 11 point Wednesday night victory on Sophomore Night at Valley College.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Monarchs end strong at home

■ Valley College show resiliency and comeback for the victory on Wednesday.



DAVID DINWIDDLE/VALLEY STAR

STRATEGY - Monarch Coach Virgil Watson calls a play during a time out on Wednesday against Santa Monica College.

By JORGE BELON
MANAGING EDITOR

Valley College freshman forward super-sub Jordan Brown guided his team to a comeback victory 81-73 by scoring 26 points on Wednesday night against the Santa Monica College (SMC) Corsairs.

On Sophomore Night Brown sealed his first-place finish in points per game in the Western State Conference by averaging 21.6 a night.

In the first half Santa Monica was in charge as they took a 43-38 lead into the half-time break. A big part for the Corsairs lead was Valley 14 turnovers, compared to SMC's eight.

In the second half Brown carried the team with his offensive outburst along with grabbing six rebounds, dishing out

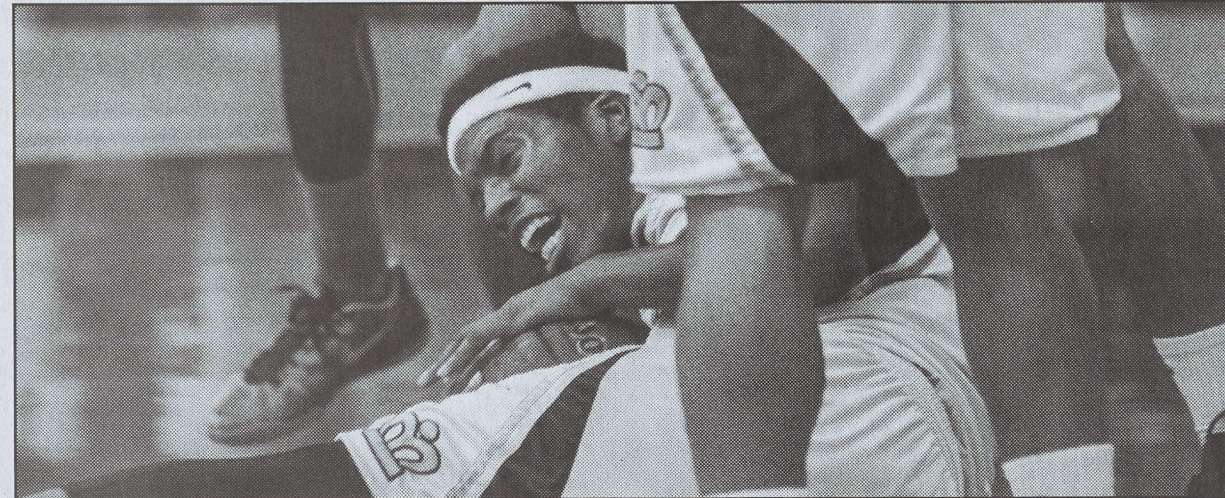
three assists and pocketing two steals in the process.

However, the lone sophomore on the Monarchs, Travis Harlin, ended his green and gold career with a solid double-double (20 points and 10 rebounds.) Brown and Harlin were the driv-

ing force to their victory as they combined for 46 of Valley 81 points in the game.

The victory improved their record to 9-17.

In their final game of the season against Glendale Community College at Verdugo



DAVID DINWIDDLE/VALLEY STAR

GRINDING OUT THE VICTORY - Monarch forward Travis Harlin dives for a loose ball against Santa Monica College.

MONARCHS SPORTS CALENDAR

■ Baseball (5-3-1)

@Los Angeles Harbor College- Tuesday 2/24 vs. Harbor (6-3), 2 p.m.
@Los Angeles Harbor College- Thursday 2/26 vs. Harbor (6-3), 2 p.m.
@Los Angeles Harbor College- Saturday 2/28 vs. Harbor (6-3), 1 p.m.
@Los Angeles Mission College- Tuesday 3/3 vs. Mission (5-5), 2 p.m.
@West Los Angeles College- Thursday 3/5 vs. West LA (3-9), 2 p.m.
@College of the Canyons- Saturday 3/7 vs. Canyons (7-3), 1 p.m.

■ Softball (4-3)

@Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex (Home)- Tuesday 2/24 vs. Oxnard College (2-5), 2:30 p.m.
@Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex (Home)- Friday 2/27 vs. Allan Hancock College (7-2-1), 2 p.m.
@Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex (Home)- Thursday 3/5 vs. Los Angeles Mission College (7-2), 2:30 p.m.
@Fullerton College- Saturday 3/7 vs. El Camino College (10-4), 11 a.m.
@Fullerton College- Saturday 3/7 vs. Fullerton (7-3), 3 p.m.

■ Women's Swimming & Diving

@Valley College- Saturday 2/28, Western State Conference Swim Meet # 1, 2:30 p.m.
@Ventura College- Sunday 3/1, Western State Conference Dive Meet # 2, 10 a.m.

■ Men's Swimming & Diving

@Valley College- Saturday 2/28, Western State Conference Swim Meet # 1, 2:30 p.m.
@Ventura College- Sunday 3/1, Western State Conference Dive Meet # 2, 10 a.m.

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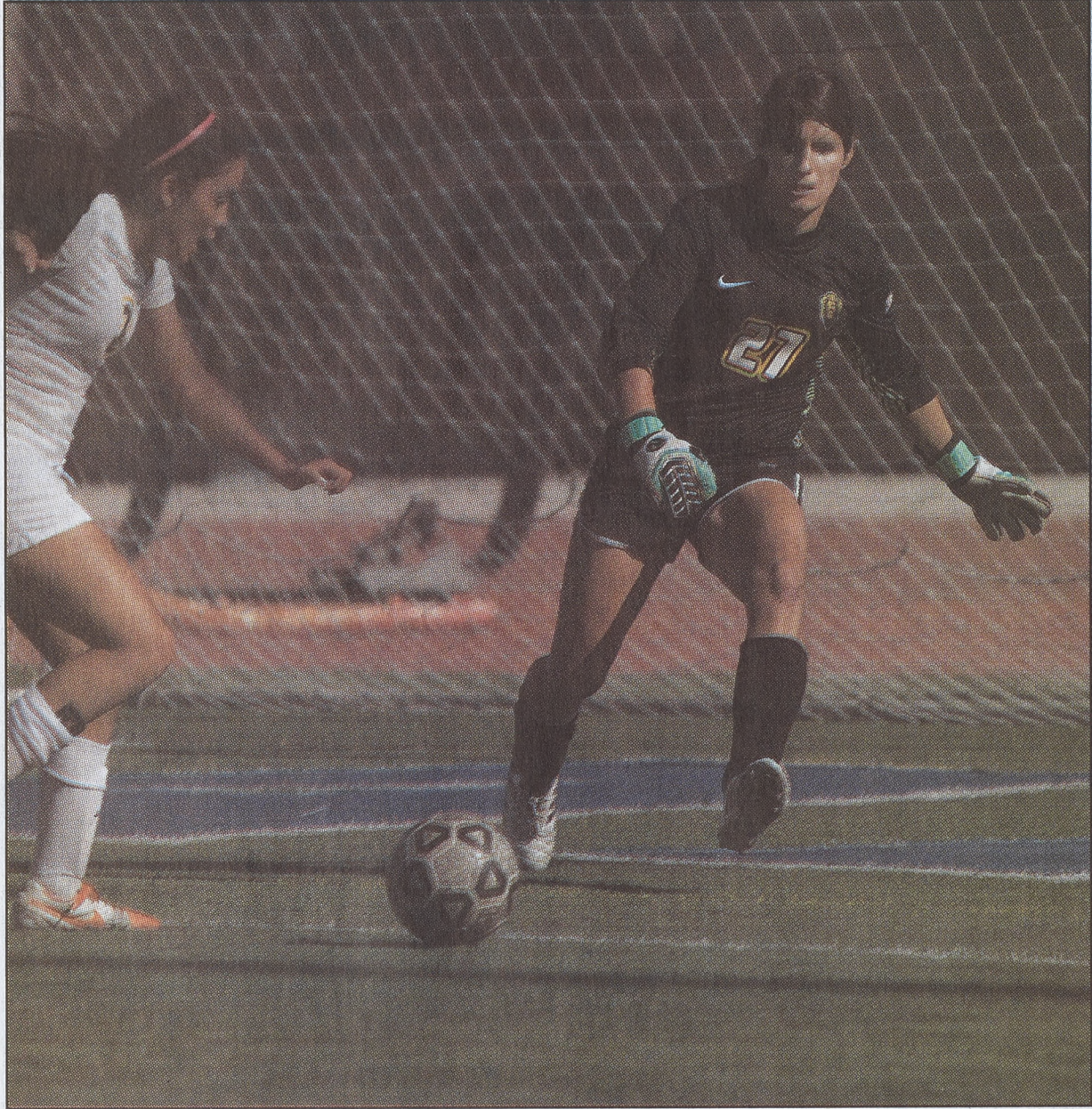
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SPORTS

WOMEN'S SOCCER



FEARLESS- Lady Monarch goalkeeper Athena Del Rosario challenging for a loose ball against Santa Monica College on Oct. 24. In this match she faced a firing squad from the Corsairs as they took 24 shots. And she responded by making 15 saves and helped guide Valley to an upset 2-2 draw on the road.

JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/VALLEY STAR

'Del Rosario'

continued from page 1

was scored on 40 times but she still managed to rebound and block 137 saves and getting five shutouts in the process.

"I got lucky, I did not find them [UNC Asheville] they found me. That's what makes it even more special," Del Rosario said. "They contacted me early December. I was on my way to class getting into my car when I got the email from the coach. Getting an email from any coach is so exciting, but after I did my research I knew I

wanted to go."

The South Bay native is not only going to the South for just soccer reasons, she is also heading there for education.

The environmental science major was also sold on Asheville because of how strong their program is, which includes a number of glamorous internships that offered at the university, such as: United States Geological Survey, Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and many more.

For Del Rosario all roads

are pointed to one direction and that is to the South, but until then she must wait for admissions to clear her so she can officially become a Bulldog.

"At this point I am sold on this school, it has the whole package for me," she said.

"It's exciting, when I first came to Valley all I knew is that I wanted to major in environmental science and that was it. Who would have known after picking up the Valley Star and seeing that the soccer team needed players that I would now be here, because this was definitely not a part of the plan."

Sports Briefs

■ MLB

All four California based teams will be competing in the preseason tournament, The Cactus League. The tournament that takes place in Arizona will begin on Mar. 3rd and end on April 4th.

■ NBA

Both Los Angeles teams will be in action on the road on Wednesday. The fifth place Clippers will be traveling to the lone star state to take on the third place Houston Rockets at 5 p.m. As for the Lakers they will be heading to Utah to face the Jazz at 6 p.m.

■ NHL

The Ottawa Senators will be heading to Southern California to face the Anaheim Ducks on Wednesday at 7 p.m. The next day the Los Angeles Kings will be facing the Canadiens at 7:30 p.m.

■ NFL

University of Southern California product Leonard Williams is possibly be heading in the top five of the NFL draft, according to Bleacher Report. The furthest he is predicted to fall is to four.

■ MLS

Two weeks till the season starts and the MLS Player Union are not backing down in the CBA meetings. ESPN FC and other sources are reporting that the players are ready to strike if they do not get some form of free agency.

■ Global Soccer

On Wednesday the UEFA Champions League round of 16 will be on display. The opening, Arsenal F.C. hosting AS Monaco FC. The finale will be Bayer 04 Leverkusen hosting Club Atlético de Madrid.

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